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21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of setting a flag in said encoded output data, said flag indicating that said appended data was appended to said encoded output data.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of determining whether said encoded output data includes unused data, and wherein if said encoded output data includes unused data, said unused data comprises said flag, and if said encoded output data does not include unused data, said appended data comprises said flag.

23. A method for encoding source data comprising the steps of:

encrypting said source data;

encoding said encrypted data according to a coded symbol symbology having a predefined structure; and

appending data to said encoded data, said appended data comprising an encryption type indicator.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of setting a flag in said encoded data, said flag indicating that said appended data was appended to said encoded output data.

25. A method for encoding source data comprising the steps of:

encrypting said source data;

encoding said encrypted data according to a coded symbol symbology;

appending data to said encoded data, said appended data comprising an encryption type indicator;

setting a flag in said encoded data, said flag indicating that said appended data was appended to said encoded output data; and

determining whether said encoded data includes unused data, and wherein if said encoded data includes unused data, said unused data comprises said flag, and if said encoded data does not include unused data, said appended data comprises said flag.

26. A method for decoding data representing a coded symbol pattern comprising the steps of:

reading a coded symbol encoded in a given symbology and producing encoded data representing said coded symbol, said encoded data comprising compression data included in an unused portion of said symbology.

decoding said encoded data according to said given symbology, and

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decompressing said decoded data in accordance with said compression data, wherein said compression data comprises a compression type indicator.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said compression data further comprises a flag indicating whether said compression data further comprises a compression type indicator.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of removing said compression data from said encoded data.

29. A method for decoding data representing a coded symbol pattern comprising the steps of:

reading a coded symbol encoded in a given symbology and producing encoded data representing said coded symbol, said encoded data comprising encryption data included in an unused portion of said symbology.

decoding said encoded data in accordance with said symbology, and

decrypting said decoded data in accordance with said encryption data, wherein said encryption data comprises an encryption type indicator.

30. A method for decoding data representing a coded symbol pattern comprising the steps of:

reading a coded symbol encoded in a given symbology and producing encoded data representing said coded symbol, said encoded data comprising encryption data included within an unused portion of said symbology.

decoding said encoded data in accordance with said symbology, and

decrypting said decoded data in accordance with said encryption data, wherein said encryption data comprises a flag indicating whether said encryption data further comprises an encryption type indicator.

31. A method for decoding data representing a coded symbol pattern comprising the steps of:

reading a coded symbol encoded in a given symbology and producing encoded data representing said coded symbol, said encoded data comprising encryption data included within an unused portion of said symbology.

decoding said encoded data in accordance with said symbology,

decrypting said decoded data in accordance with said encryption data, and

removing said encryption data from said encoded data.

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